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holy city in disguise he calculated the number at 70,000; Burton, in 1850, found the number reduced to 50,000. The author says a growth in tolerance among the Mohammedan sects is plainly evident, and this points to renewed unity among those races that hold the faith of Islam.

The narrative, absorbing in interest, is divided into three parts: the first describes the aspects of the social life and faith; the second, the journey to the holy city and the interesting ceremonies there, such as the compassing of the Ka'bah, the visit to Arafat, and the Day of Victims; the third section depicts various scenes in Mecca, phases of life there and religious institutions, such as the use of talismans and healing by faith. Mr. Sparroy, who was tutor to the children of the Shah of Persia over fifteen years, collaborated in preparing the book for the press and wrote the appendix, which discusses the condition of Islam in regard to slavery. The photographs were taken by the author—a proceeding by no means orthodox, and involving some personal risk.

Aus Südwest-Afrika. Blätter aus dem Tagebuche einer deutschen Frau, 1902-1904. 188 pp., and 24 half-tone Illustrations. Veit & Co., Leipzig, 1905. (Price, M. 3.50.)

These are bright sketches of life among the German pioneers and the natives in German Southwest Africa, with many allusions to the physical conditions of the country. The writer and her husband travelled over a large part of the central regions, where most of the German officials and immigrants are settled. She shows the vivid contrast between the sandy waste of the coastal zone and the mountainous interior, where the climate is inviting and the verdant valleys are beautiful. Life among the pioneer farmers is depicted, with its hardships and unexpected vicissitudes. The writer describes with pen and picture the achievements of some of these brave men and women who spread over bits of the wilderness the charm of utility and comfort. The pathos of their fate in the present Herero uprising, the tragic end of their twenty years of struggle, are, perhaps, nowhere else so feelingly emphasized.

Die Zukunft Deutsch-Südwestafrikas. Von Dr. Georg Hartmann. pp. 31. Mittler & Son, Berlin, 1904.

This colony, about a third larger than Germany, is, in the author's opinion, neither one of the best nor one of the least valuable of the steppe regions. In addition to its thirsty wastes, it has large areas adapted for cattle and sheep raising, and valleys where general farming is successfully pursued; and he points to Cape Colony, Algeria, Argentina, and Australia, all of which produce millions of live stock and great value in agricultural products under similar semi-arid conditions. The mineral resources of the colony are also very important. Dr. Hartmann believes that German Southwest Africa will richly pay for development, and that Germany may ultimately obtain from this source the wool which she so largely imports. He regards the two recent native uprisings as local phenomena, whose repetition may be prevented; and he thinks the next twenty years should see at least 10,000 to 15,000 families of German peasants, numbering 50,000 to 60,000 persons, settled in the colony and developing its agriculture and stock-raising.

Lettres d'Afrique du Colonel Baron Lahure: Maroc et Sahara Occidental. Préface par Edmond Picard. ix and 136 pp., portrait and 3 illustrations after water-colors by the author. Oscar Lamberty, Brussels, 1905.

Col. Lahure, an officer in the Belgian army, wrote these letters while on a Gov-

ernment mission in 1888 to northwest Africa, during which he saw much of Morocco and the western Sahara. He was greatly impressed both with the indications of large natural resources in Morocco and the determination of the governing class that foreigners should not profit by them. He wrote that, after great effort and the lavish distribution of money among influential persons at court, a mining concession might be obtained, but the Sultan would manage indefinitely to delay the enterprise or ultimately forbid any attempt to carry it out. Soon after his return home the author fell a victim to a malady contracted on this journey.

Vedic India, as Embodied Principally in the Rig-Veda. By Zénaïde

A. Ragozin. xii and 457 pp., Map, 35 Illustrations and Index. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1902. (Price, cloth, \$1.50.)

This book describes the thoughts and customs (chiefly religious) of the ancient Aryan settlers in the Punjab, and gives much space to geographic influences. It opens with a general description of India, emphasizing especially the influence that the Himalayas, the monsoons, and the variety of climate and vegetation have had upon the physical and mental development of the people. A brief description follows of the life of the Indo-Iranians, that greater and more numerous nation, lying somewhere in the interior of Asia, the ancestors of the Aryan Hindus and Iranians. This people, the author says, was "rude and primitive, but by no means what is usually understood by a 'very young people.'" The fact that the words *father*, *mother*, *brother*, *sister*, *widow*, etc., have similar roots (modifications being consequent on the character of the language), in almost all the languages of the Aryan stock, shows that these words existed in the language of the Indo-Iranians, consequently that they had reached the stage of family organization. In the same way it is shown that they tilled the soil, made stone weapons, used gold and silver, dwelt in houses with doors, and wore clothing of skin or of spun and woven wool. The presence of the word *cow* is of great importance, showing that they had reached a settled stage of existence, because the cow, unlike the sheep, is incapable of bearing the hardships of a nomadic life. Of equal importance is the absence in the Aryan languages of any common root for *sea* or *ocean*, indicating that these people lived in an interior land, knowing nothing of the ocean.

The early history of the Aryans, who separated from this ancestral stock, and, after long wanderings, settled in the Punjab of India, forms the subject of the book. Material is found principally in the Rig-Veda, a collection of 1,028 hymns and sacred texts. Miss Ragozin takes up first the cycle of the older Vedic gods, who can be traced with absolute certainty to an Indo-Iranian past, and identified with corresponding divine beings in the Avesta; then the myths and gods of Indian growth, bearing the unmistakable impress of the land, and conditions of life which the Aryans found beyond the Himalaya and the Indus. The nature of the country mapped out their chief pursuits; agriculture, and cattle breeding, with some pottery, carpentering, hide-tanning, spinning, and weaving. The climate was balmy but not enervating; the soil repaid labour, but would not support the race in idleness; there were wild animals to be kept at bay, and a brave and numerous native population to be defied. All these conditions were favourable to the development of a sturdy race.

The author cites evidence, almost conclusive, that there was commercial intercourse between Dravidian India and Babylonia. One of the facts pointing in this direction is that the old Babylonian name for *muslin* was *sindhu-i*, i. e., it was called by the name of the country which exported it. This is corroborative evidence that the